

Pictures of World Events for News Readers

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 21

JONAH A MISSIONARY TO NINEVEH.

LESSON TEXT—Jonah 1:1-10.
GOLDEN TEXT—Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I command you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.—Matt. 28:19, 20, 21, V.

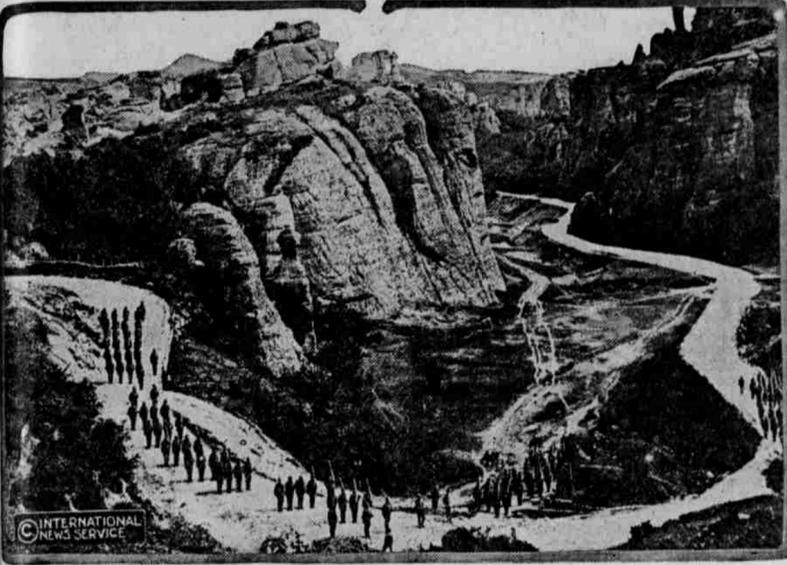
The story of Jonah is one of the most famous and most interesting in the Bible. In former series of lessons more extended use has been made of the book giving time to discuss its historicity and other questions involved. This time only one reference is used and that for the purpose of its missionary teaching. We accept the record of the book literally because similar facts are recorded in profane history but chiefly because of the testimony and the usage made of it by Jesus (see Matt. 12:40; 16:4 and Luke 11:30).

I. The Prophet Proclaiming, vv. 1-4. Jonah "paid the fare" (1:3) and "out of the depths" (Ps. 139:1) God delivered him that he might fulfill his God-appointed task. Even so the nation of Israel is today crying from out of the depths of its woe among the nations and will certainly be "delivered" when the king comes, that it may take its rightful place and fulfill its God-appointed tasks. It is a wonderful testimony of God's grace (vi) that God's word came to Jonah a "second time." Once he ran from God's command but God is the God of the gospel of a "second chance" and a third if only we repent and do his commands, but God does not give a "second chance" to the unrepentant (Num. 14:40-45). Verse two explicitly sets forth the message Jonah is to deliver even so we are to proclaim the Gospel (see I Cor. 15:1-4) not the speculations of men nor the subtleties of philosophy. The messenger of God will find his message in the word of God and will declare it. It is the word which reveals God's love, his plan of salvation, and the destiny of the saints. "By the foolishness of preaching" men will be saved. The word "preach" literally means "to cry out" or "call out" or "implies that earnestness and insistence needful for a true advocate or witness of God. But the power is not in us; it is not the word of God mingled with the theories of men, or with such added to the word. The Bible is the soul winner's true staff. Nineveh, vast magnificent and wealthy could not atone for its wickedness; its greatness only aggravated its condition. Jonah did not spend any time to acquaint himself with conditions or to do sight-seeing but cried, "yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." When he explicitly and minutely obeyed and delivered God's message he at once aroused and arrested the attention of the city. He did not attempt to present "credentials," nor explain or defend his message. He did not seek to harmonize it with "current thought" nor give it a "modern expression." He was blunt and without compromise but gave an opportunity for repentance. It is such preaching that always wins (Isa. 51:11; Luke 1:37). Warning and an opportunity for repentance usually precede the judgments of God (Luke 13:8-9). Jonah appealed to fear as we must at times and declaring the whole counsel of God his message was effective (Jer. 1:17; Acts 20:27).

II. The People Penitent, vv. 5-10. Nineveh paid immediate heed to the man who did not stir over God's warning. Had the city continued in sin, it had not been delivered. Nineveh did four things and as a result they were saved: (1) They believed, "believed God" (v. 5). All true repentance is conditioned upon accepting God at his word (John 13:20). (2) They evidenced humiliation (v. 6). They gave such evidence by humbling themselves in the sight of God from the king upon the throne to "even the least." There was no apparent attempt to qualify or to evade God's decree, but rather to accept it and by taking a proper place in his sight he delivered from the penalty of their just deserts. (3) They prayed (v. 8; cf. 6, 7). Their prayer was intense. The kind of prayer that counts with God must also count upon God, and God "is slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy" (Neh. 9:17). Prayer that is effective is (a) grounded upon the word of God (b) forsakes sin and (c) obeys the will of God. (James 1:22; 2:17). (4) They made sacrifice (v. 8). Mere humiliation and prayer does not effect a remedy unless there is a merciful judgment executed upon sin. The essence of repentance is to turn away from sin. (Isa. 55:6, 7). God saw "their works" that they turned from their "evil way" (v. 10), not ways, and he did not execute the threatened judgment upon the city. God did not change. He hated their sin and would surely have executed his penalty, but they changed, hence their deliverance.

Their changed attitude was acceptable to him.
Did Jonah fail in his mission? No! For God's predictions of ruin are not absolute and unconditional (Jer. 18:7-10). Chapter four is the record of Jonah's petulance and of God's loving-kindness.
Nineveh continued for nearly 200 years subsequently but it was then so completely destroyed that for nearly 2,000 years its location was unknown and disputed though now yielding a rich harvest for the archeologist and Bible student.
Can a nation be stirred today? For answer witness Mott and Eady in China. In 14 of China's chief cities during three months of 1912, 7,000 of the leaders of that nation enrolled as inquirers.

WILD COUNTRY IN WHICH TO FIGHT



This photograph of Bulgarian troops in a mountain pass in Serbia gives an idea of the nature of much of the country in which the war in the Balkans is now being conducted.

SUFFRAGISTS TAKE "LITTLE WHITE HOUSE"



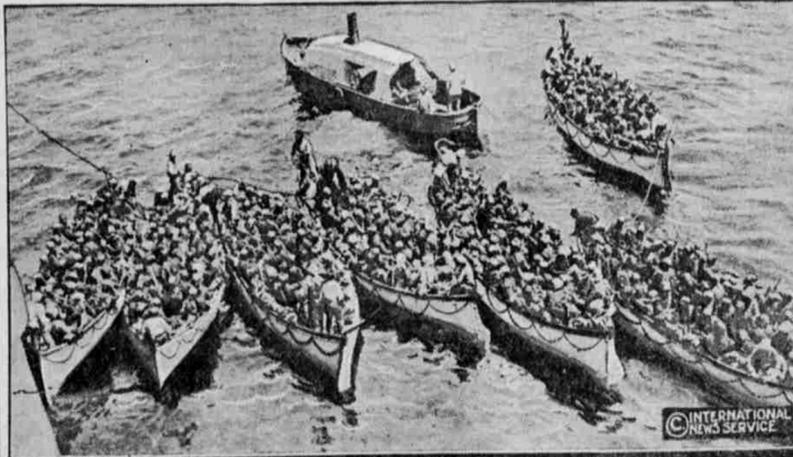
Cameron house, in Washington, sometimes called the "little White House," because so many famous people have occupied it, which has been rented by the Congressional Union for Equal Suffrage as its headquarters for the great suffrage rally to be held in Washington beginning the day congress convenes and lasting for a week or more. This house is just across Lafayette square from the White House. The "little White House" will be the scene of many conferences, mass meetings and social functions during suffrage week, and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont of New York, whose portrait is inserted, has already arranged to hold a big reception there on the evening of the day that congress convenes.

GATHERING UP THE VICTIMS OF WAR



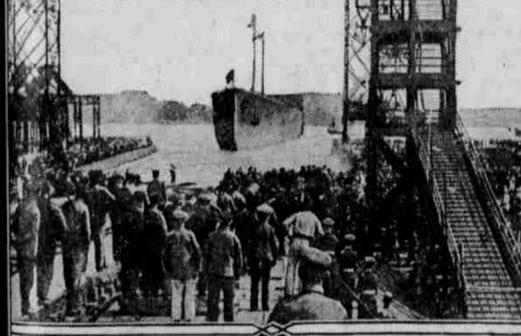
French and German dead soldiers gathered up on the field of battle and placed on a wagon to be carried to the place of burial.

LANDING BRITISH TROOPS AT SALONIKI



This is the first photograph to reach America showing the arrival of the allied expeditionary force at Saloniki for the relief of the Serbians. The boats loaded with British soldiers are about to be towed ashore.

GERMANY STILL ADDING TO HER FLEET



Although the German navy has been bottled up by the fleet of the allies that fact does not prevent her from constructing other warships. The upper photograph shows the launching of the latest German cruiser, with the hull of the vessel going down the ways. The lower photograph shows the launching party, with Frau von Hindenburg, wife of Field Marshal von Hindenburg, on the launching bridge.

CAUGHT IN BARBED WIRE



Here is graphically pictured the fate of so many of the brave Russians who desperately charge the German positions that are protected by barbed-wire entanglements. Caught in the barricade, the men are mowed down by machine guns.

BATTLING IN THE CLOUDS



Nothing in modern warfare is more dramatic than the battles between air craft. The photograph shows an action between a German aeroplane and a French dirigible at night.

Avoiding the incongruous. "Are you going to run a picture of this woman who has just fallen heir to a large fortune?" asked the reporter. "No," replied the city editor. "We couldn't get one." "All right. It will be safe for me to say in the story that she is young and beautiful."

FOR ANOTHER WINTER CAMPAIGN



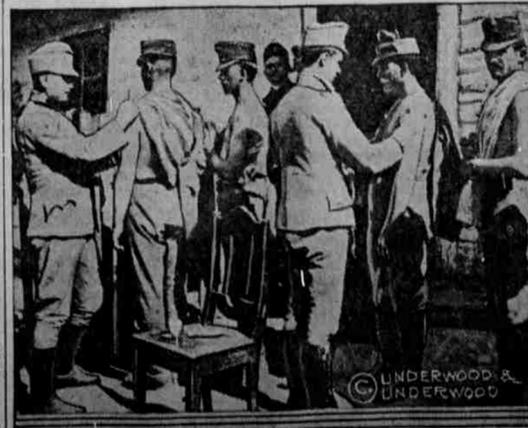
During the cold weather the new sleeping bags of sheepskin will be a great boon to the soldiers of the allied troops. The lower photograph shows one of the men comfortably incased. The upper photograph shows how the bags are examined and folded before shipment. Urgent calls for more and more of such bags are made in England.

NEW PREMIER OF FRANCE



Aristide Briand, who has succeeded Viviani as French premier, has held various cabinet positions and was premier for two months early in 1913. He is known as an exceptionally strong man in national and international affairs.

BEING INOCULATED AGAINST TYPHUS



The Austrian army is up to date in methods adopted to prevent disease. Surgeons are here seen inoculating soldiers against typhus, which has been epidemic in Serbia and parts of Austria.

BULGARIAN TRANSPORT AND CONVOY



View of a Bulgarian transport train and its convoy of infantrymen after the Bulgars had begun the invasion of Serbia.